

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7670

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0333

NODIS

DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR OAU AO ET

SUBJ: OAU: CONSULTATIONS ON SUMMIT

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0278

1. BRIT, FRG AND FRENCH AMBS MET AT MY HOUSE AGAIN LAST NIGHT. WE AGREED THAT FRIENDLY AFRICANS ARE DOING GOOD JOB OF ORGANIZING, AND AGREED THAT CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM IS IN ORDER. WE NOTED THE SOFTNESS SHOWING UP IN PRIVATE POSITIONS OF SOME MPLA SUPPORTERS (TANZANIA, MOZAMBIQUE DESPITE MCAHEL'S PUBLIC SPEECH TO OPENING SESSION, AND EVEN REPORTEDLY NIGERIA). FACTORS WE HAVE ALL REPORTED BEFORE ARE WORKING TO OUR ADVANTAGE, (A) INCREASED PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO AVOIDING DIVISIVE SPLIT IN OAU, (B) SOME PRO-MPLA COUNTRIES TOOK THEIR POSITIONS IN EXPECTATION THAT BANDWAGON WOULD PRODUCE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY FOR MPLA THAT WOULD AMOUNT TO NON-DIVISIVE SOLUTION, AND NOW THAT THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED THEY ARE MORE WILLING TO WORK FOR CONSENSUS ALONG OTHER LINES.

3. WE HAD TO AGREE THAT EVEN IF FRIENDLY FORCES PREVAIL IN OAU PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION, REAL-LIFE SOLUTION TO ANGOLA PROBLEM IS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE. WE WILL URGE OUR GOVTS TO GIVE THOUGHT TO NEXT STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN AFTER SUMMIT.

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4. ALL THREE AMBS POINTED SADLY TO UNFORTUNATE TIMING OF WASH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT US AID LEVELS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY UN VOTING RECORD. AFRICANS HAVE ALSO MADE SIMILAR OBSERVATIONS TO ME SAYING SUBJECT IS MUCH DISCUSSED IN CORRIDORS AND IS BEING USED TO OUR ADVANTAGE BY PRO-MPLA FORCES.

5. FRENCH AMB BARBIER IS THE MOST ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE OF THE THREE, AND HAS DONE VERY GOOD WORK AMONG FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS. BRIT AND FRG AMBS ARE HANDICAPPED BY NEWNESS TO ADDIS.

6. WE PLAN ANOTHER MEETING AFTER SUMMIT IS OVER, TO COMPARE NOTES.
HUMMEL

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